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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/608,571

06/27/2003

Edwin Bolduan

2001P12032WOUS

7324

46726

7590

04/16/2008

BSH HOME APPLIANCES CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT
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EXAMINER

LU, JIPING

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3749

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/16/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/608,571	Applicant(s) BOLDUAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Jiping Lu	Art Unit 3749	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/4/08 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 23-26, 28, 31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Henry et al (U.S. Pat. 6,473,988).

Henry et al show an arrangement for removing moisture from wet clothing same as claimed. Henry et al show an absorbent body 1, 5, means (absorbent rolls 5) forming a contact path (from 2 to 3) along which the absorbent body 5 and a first item of clothing 3 are in contact with one another during a moisture transfer run, the contact path having an entry (at 2), an exit (at 3), and an extent (conveyor path within rolls 5, 5') extending between the contact path entry (at 5') and the contact path exit (at 5); means (when clothing 3 disengages absorbent conveyor

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roll 5 push clothing 3 out of chamber 7) for disengaging the absorbent body 5 and the first item of clothing 3 from contact with one another at the contact path exit (at 5), the absorbent body 5 absorbing moisture from the first item of clothing 3 as the absorbent body 5 and the first item of clothing 3 (after squeeze drying) are in contact with one another along the contact path extent such that the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body (at 5) is greater at the contact path exit than at the contact path entry (at 5'); means 8-11 for reducing the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body 5 to dispose the absorbent body at a level of moisture at the contact path entry (at 5') that is lower than the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body at the contact path exit (at 5); and means 4 for advancing the absorbent body 5 and the first item of clothing 3 along the contact path such that the first instance at which the absorbent body 5 is in moisture absorbing contact with the first item of clothing 3 occurs at the contact path entry (at 5'), the absorbent body 5 and the first item of clothing 3 are advanced along the contact path (between 5' and 5 via conveyor 4) to permit the absorbent body 5 to absorb moisture from the first item of clothing 3, thereby leading to an increase in the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body 5 as the absorbent body 5 and the first item of clothing 3 reach the contact path exit (at 5), and the absorbent body 5 and the first item of clothing 3 are advanced out of moisture transferring contact with one another at the contact path exit (at 5), the means 4 for advancing being operable to dispose the absorbent body 5 at the contact path entry (at 5') for a subsequent advancing movement of the absorbent body 5 in contact with a second item of clothing 3 during a subsequent moisture transfer run along the contact path (between 5' and 5), and the means 4 for advancing and the means (rolls 5 in squeezing position) forming a contact path being configured such that the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body (at 5) increases in correspondence

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with the advancement of the absorbent body 5 and the respective item of clothing along the contact path extent. With regard to claim 31, Henry et al show a method for removing moisture from items of clothing 3, comprising: advancing an absorbent body 5 and a first item of clothing 3 along a contact path (between 5 and 5') during a moisture transfer run that begins at a contact path entry (at 5); disengaging (at 5') the absorbent body 5 and the first item of clothing 3 from contact with one another at a contact path exit (at 5'), the absorbent body 5 absorbing moisture from the first item of clothing 3 as the absorbent body 5 and the first item of clothing 3 are in contact with one another along a contact path (between 5 and 5') extent from the contact path entry (at 5') to the contact path exit (at 5) such that the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body 4 is greater at the contact path exit (at 5') than at the contact path entry (at 5); reducing 8-10 the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body 5 to dispose the absorbent body 5 in a condition for a subsequent moisture transfer run with the absorbent body 5 at a level of moisture at the contact path entry (at 5') that is lower than the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body at the contact path exit (at 5), whereupon the absorbent body 5 and the first item of clothing 3 along the contact path are advanced along the contact path (between 5' and 5) such that the first instance at which the absorbent body 5 is in moisture absorbing contact with the first item of clothing 3 occurs at the contact path entry (at 5'), the absorbent body 5 and the first item of clothing 3 are advanced along the contact path (between 5' and 5) to permit the absorbent body 5 to absorb moisture from the first item of clothing 3, thereby leading to an increase in the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body 5 as the absorbent body 5 and the first item of clothing 3 reach the contact path exit (at 5), and the absorbent body 5 and the first item of clothing 3 are advanced out of moisture transferring contact with one another at the

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contact path exit (by conveyor 4), with the result that the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body 5 increases in correspondence with the advancement of the absorbent body and the respective item of clothing along the contact path extent; and disposing the absorbent body 5 at the contact path entry (at 5') for a subsequent advancing movement of the absorbent body 5 in contact with a second item of clothing 3 (at 2) during a subsequent moisture transfer run along the contact path. With regard to claims 24 and 32, the absorbent body is trained around a first roller 5' and a second roller 5 for travel of the absorbent body in an endless travel path. With regard to claims 25 and 33, the absorbent body 5 includes two loops (one on top and one below the conveyor 4) of absorbent material 5 each trained around a first roller 5 and a second roller 5' for travel of the loop in an endless travel path, each of the loops being disposed on a respective lateral side of the contact path such that the contact path extends between the loops and the loops simultaneously contacting an item of clothing 3 on respective opposite lateral sides thereof during advancement of the absorbent body 5 and the item of clothing 3 along the contact path. With regard to claims 26 and 34, the means for reducing the level of moisture retained by the absorbent body includes a squeezing out-roller 5 disposed adjacent the endless travel path 4 of the absorbent body 5 for mechanically compressing the absorbent body to effect removal of moisture from the absorbent body. With regard to claim 28, see means (rollers 5, 5') for transversely guiding a respective item of clothing being advanced along the contact path (between 5 and 5'), the transversely guiding means being operable to transversely guide a respective item of clothing 3 in a direction transverse to the contact path toward the absorbent body 5.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

5. Claims 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henry et al (U.S. Pat. 6,473,998) in view of Shibuya (JP8-49161).

The clothes dewatering apparatus of Henry et al as above includes all that is recited in claims 29 and 30 except for gas jet acting transversely to a surface of the item of clothing and forcing the item of clothing into contact with the absorbent body. Shibuya teaches clothes dewatering method with gas jet/compressed air nozzle 38 forcing the item of clothing 40 into contact with the conveyor and acting transversely to a surface of the clothing 40 same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the clothes dewatering method of Henry et al to include a gas jet/a compressed air nozzle for forcing the clothes into contact with conveyor and subjecting the clothes to action of gas jet acting transversely to a surface of the clothes as taught by Shibuya in order to more efficiently dry the clothes.

6. Claims 27 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henry et al (U.S. Pat. 6,473,998) in view of Bronander (U.S. Pat. 1,773,167).

The clothes dewatering apparatus and method of Henry et al as above include all that is recited in claims 27 and 35 except for vertical contact path. Bronander shows vertical contact paths for moisture removal same as the applicant's. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the horizontal

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contact path of Henry et al with a vertical path of Bronander in order to promote gravity assisted moisture removal.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jiping Lu whose telephone number is 571 272 4878. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, STEVEN B. MCALLISTER can be reached on 571 272-6785. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jiping Lu/
Primary Examiner
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J. L.

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